

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

CONTENTS FOR WEEK OF MARCH 31, 1924. VOL. III. NO. 4.

1. Turkey Deposes the Caliph, Dissolves the Caliphate.
 2. A Fly, an Antelope and Sleeping Sickness.
 3. Delhi: Capital Where India's Assembly Meets.
 4. Scapa Flow: Story of a Harbor and the Scotch Thistle.
 5. Limerick and Its Quips.
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JAUNTING TO MARKET IN COUNTY GALWAY, IRELAND
(See Bulletin No. 5.)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

The Geographic News Bulletin is published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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Turkey Deposits the Caliph, Dissolves the Caliphate

RECENT expulsion of the Caliph, claimant to spiritual leadership of Mohammedanism and the abolition of the caliphate by the Turkish National Assembly, is another event in the checkered story of that office since its founding by the prophet Mohammed in the seventh century. Abdul Medjid, the deposed caliph, who has gone to Lausanne with but two of his 800 wives, was the successor to the Sultan of Turkey, and was elevated to the position of leading officer of the Mohammedan religious organizations when the Sultan refused to part with his temporal power on demand from the Nationalists.

The abolition of the caliphate by the assembly means that the legislature of the new Turkish republic has withdrawn its compromise of November 2, 1922, when it took over the temporal power but left the spiritual power, and has ordered the dissolution of the office of spiritual head of the Moslem religion. In Arabia the King of Hedjaz has been proclaimed caliph. King Fuad, of Egypt, is also mentioned for the office.

Harun al Rashid was a Bona Fide Caliph

Recent caliphs, who have been the sultans of Turkey, have claimed spiritual supremacy over the Mohammedan world of some 300,000,000 souls. But in actual fact the Sultan of Turkey had little more spiritual ascendancy over the Mohammedans outside Turkey than the King of England has over the Episcopalians in the United States.

The very word "caliph" has an allurements which dates back to childhood days when one lived among those fantastic Arabian nights at the court of Caliph Harun al Rashid. Rashid was a bona fide caliph, and a reading of the historical facts about the caliphate in later years furnishes no fewer thrills than the immortal tales.

When Mohammed died, his counselor, Abu Bekr, the companion of his flight, or Hegira, became caliph, meaning, literally, successor. Abu Bekr means "father of the virgin." He was Mohammed's father-in-law. The second caliph, or successor, was Omar, another father-in-law of the Prophet, who started organizing armies and began spreading Islam over the map in a very literal sense. Omar was the first to bear the title Emir al Moumenin, "Prince of the Faithful."

Conflicts in the Prophet's Family

From the first, Ali, husband of Mohammed's daughter, Fatima, considered himself the logical successor to the caliphate. Not until Abu Bekr and Omar had ruled, and another caliph, Othman, had his day and had been murdered as was Omar before him, did Ali become caliph.

Certainly Mohammedanism can be termed emphatically a "man's religion." Yet, at this early date, two women were the moving spirits in splitting it into the Sunnite and Shiite divisions which have prevailed ever since. Ayesha, favorite wife of the Prophet, always had been jealous of his daughter, Fatima, and the succession of Fatima's husband directed all her efforts upon an anti-Ali party. Meantime the group which, all along, had regarded Ali as the legitimate successor, gained strength during his rule but were kept busy fighting to hold the sway Omar had established.



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HIGH JUMP BY A WATUSSI IN FORMER GERMAN EAST AFRICA

A line, which could be raised or lowered at will, was stretched between two slender trees standing on an incline. The athletes had to run up to this and jump from a small termite heap a foot high. Despite these unfavorable conditions, exhibitions were given which would place all European efforts in the shade. The best jumpers—slender but splendid figures, with an almost Indian profile—attained the incredible height of 2.50 meters (8 feet 3 inches), and young boys made the relatively no less wonderful performance of 1.50 to 1.60 meters (5 feet). *Natural History Bulletin No. 2.*

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A Fly, an Antelope and Sleeping Sickness

THE ASSERTION that has recently come from Germany that the German Colonial Society has a successful remedy for the hitherto incurable "sleeping sickness" of tropical Africa, but will not make it known unless Germany's prewar colonies are restored, turns attention to one of the most dread known maladies.

It is hardly too much to say that the sleeping sickness, and the tsetse fly, which plays an important part in causing it, have done more than mountain ranges, mighty rivers and most other natural features to affect, divert and hold back development in central Africa.

The Boer and British settlers of South Africa had no tsetse problem until their pioneers had pushed on up toward the tropics. Then their cattle, bitten by flies, sickened and died. With the further opening up of the hot country the tsetse fly was introduced to the world as a tiny insect more destructive of domestic cattle than the rapacious lions that operate in some of the same territory.

Sleeping Sickness Challenged Central African Future

When Europeans came into contact with the tsetse fly in some of the more southern "fly belts" his destructiveness seemed confined to their cattle. Flies in those regions inflicted painful bites on men, but that was the end of it. Closer to the Equator a much more sinister effect of the fly became apparent when it was found that the seemingly always fatal sleeping sickness of humans in those sections followed the bites of the flies as did the death of domestic animals. The entire future of the tropical African colonies of the various European Powers was seen to hang on the possibility of combating the sleeping sickness; for with the greater freedom of movement stimulated by the advance of civilization, the disease spread from its local centers and threatened to wipe out the entire population of countries.

In the years just preceding the World War, British, German, French, Belgian, Portuguese and Italian scientists were busy in Africa seeking to learn more about the tsetse fly and the disease, and to find ways of combating them.

The investigations which disclosed the complicated plan by which nature keeps the microscopic organisms of the sleeping sickness alive and injects them into human victims makes a fascinating chapter of science despite the dark side of the picture.

Animal "Reservoir" and Insect "Hypodermic"

It was found that there must be a large animal whose blood is of the proper sort to constitute a "reservoir" for the microorganisms. If this "reservoir" is tapped by a tsetse fly the organisms drawn out undergo a slight change in the fly's intestines and glands and are injected as though through a hypodermic syringe when later the fly bites a similar animal or a human. It was thought at first that a succession of ill human victims furnished the reservoirs; but all humans on certain infested islands were transported, and still the flies were able to transmit the disease several years later. Crocodiles for a time were popularly suspected of being the "reservoirs" but it was proved that the disease could not be transmitted from their blood.

Two Leading Denominations of Mohammedanism

When Ali's son and successor, Hasan, was murdered, probably by the hand of his wife at the behest of Moawiya, this Moawiya assumed the caliphate, removed its seat to Damascus, and began the series of rulers known as Ommiades. Henceforth the Shiites were alienated from the Sunnites, or Orthodox Mohammedans, because of their reverence for Ali and Hasan, and their belief that the first of the Ommiades and his successors were usurpers and pretenders. Arabian and Persian Mohammedans inclined toward the Shiite faction.

It was during another series of caliphates, that of the Abbasid monarchs, that Harun al Rashid ruled. And it was after his reign that the division of that office among his three sons made the caliphate into a sort of commission form of government. One son held sway over Arabia and Syria; another Persia and Turkestan; and a third Asia Minor and the Black Sea region.

Banquet Over Dead Caliphs' Bones

At another time, toward the end of the tenth century, Bagdad, Cairo and Cordova, Spain, all were the seats of separate ruling caliphs; though this was no amiable division. Each caliph declared the other a heretic and held himself the lone head of all Islam.

How Abdul Abbas, first of the Abbasid monarchs, had every living male of the Ommiades thrown into prison, killed them all, and then gave a banquet on a great cloth thrown over their bones, is but one example of the fantastic cruelty of the centuries-long struggle to be caliph.

The story of the caliphate would fill—has filled—volumes. The assumption of the title by the Sultans of Turkey was a modern and perhaps a minor chapter in the struggle to be "The Successor" and thus to hold sway over this mighty force of Islam. Points of special interest are that force often has played a major part in assumption of the role, that there have been several caliphs both by mutual agreement and also by rivalry, and that acquiring the title of caliph by no means guarantees its recognition by the Moslem world.

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Delhi: India's Assembly Meets in Capital

DELHI, where the partially elective assembly of India is now gathered and is demanding a greater degree of liberty from British control, is a capital of Great Britain's own conception. What Canberra, carved out of the wilderness, is to Australia, and what Washington, conceived where only farms and forests were before, is to United States, Delhi will be to India. Except this; the New Delhi is being built on ground where cities have risen and passed away through centuries, and about which are situated beautiful and striking monuments of one of the world's most powerful empires.

Built Amid Ruins of Old Capitals

Legend says that from the dimmest past some sort of a capital city, now of a local kingdom, now of a far-flung empire, has existed at Delhi. For a distance of more than 12 miles south of the present city and over an area several miles wide are the remains of old walls and streets, forts and temples that dimly trace the sites of these once populous centers. Among the ruins are the more enduring edifices set up by emperors and princes to commemorate victories, to advance religions, or to serve as magnificent places of interment.

Though legend makes Delhi a place of importance from earliest times, history takes no account of it until about 1050 A. D., when it was the seat of a Hindu ruler. It was captured by Mohammedan invaders from Afghanistan in 1193, and from that time onward was the capital of a Mohammedan Indian empire. Delhi, in the days of the Mohammedan conquest, lay to the south of the present city, and there where the new power was set up, the first Mohammedan ruler, Kutb-ed-din, built in celebration of his conquest a tower of victory, the Kutb Minar, which stands today and has been called "the most perfect tower in the world."

Timur the Lame (Tamerlane), the Tatar scourge of Asia toward the end of the fourteenth century, swooped down from Samarkand in 1398 and sacked Delhi; and in 1526 his lineal descendant, Baber, took the Tatar hordes again into India, captured the city, and founded the Mogul Empire, through the fame of which Delhi is best known to western ears. In 1638, Shah Jehan, the Augustus of the Mogul Emperors, built the present Delhi to the north of the old city and embellished it with mosques and palaces of great beauty.

"If there is Paradise, O, it is This!"

For the next hundred years Delhi was what Babylon was under Nebuchadnezzar, what Rome was under its greatest Caesars, and what Bagdad was under its most powerful Caliphs. As the Great Mogul Emperor sat on his world-famous Peacock Throne, studded with precious stones worth hundreds of millions of dollars, and spoke words that meant law throughout teeming India, it was difficult for those who beheld him to conceive of greater magnificence or power existing anywhere else in the world. On the walls of his exquisitely decorated marble audience chamber and throne room this thought found expression in the following inscription in Persian:

"If there is a Paradise on the face of the earth, It is this, O, it is this, O, it is this!"

Bulletin No. 3, March 31, 1924 (over).

Finally, by patient research, the fact was run down that a certain species of antelope—the Situnga—is the guilty animal. Though he remains perfectly healthy himself, his blood may contain millions of the organisms fatal to man. The fly, imbibing his daily diet of blood from the infected Situnga, sucks in the organisms, and in turn receives no ill effects from them. But when he bites a man, he deals out deadly poison. As far as man is concerned, antelope or fly would each be entirely harmless without the other. But they have set up unconsciously an association that forms one of the most sinister partnerships in the world.

Scientists "Ear-Mark" Thousands of Flies

Though it is almost impossible to exterminate either the antelope or the tsetse in central Africa—a step that might wipe out the disease—it was possible, after their dangerous relationship came to be understood, to take certain steps to better conditions. This was made possible by the fact that the flies have restricted breeding grounds along the shores of lakes and streams. Many of these areas were evacuated much against the wishes of the natives, and abandoned to the flies. The result has been a marked decrease in the number of cases of sleeping sickness in recent years. In the abandoned areas, however, both flies and the antelopes remain, and keep alive the fatal disease organisms. If a human ventures into the regions it is quite likely he will become infected.

One interesting fact developed in a most interesting way by British naturalists who studied the tsetse fly problem, is that the flies are relatively long-lived. They live about a year and, once harboring the disease organism, preserve their power of infection to the end. The approximate life span of the flies when free was determined by patiently catching thousands of them, marking their legs, much as a cattleman "ear marks" his animals, and releasing them. At intervals later thousands of flies were captured in the same locality. The marked individuals continued to appear among the captives, healthy and active, for the better part of a year.

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Scapa Flow: The Story of a Harbor and the Scotch Thistle

REPORTS that the 74 German warships scuttled by their commanders on June 21, 1919, at Scapa Flow are to be salvaged by the British recall the fact that this body of water between the Orkney Islands and the mainland of Scotland, which was the main base of the British Grand Fleet throughout the World War, is one of the world's largest and safest harbors.

Even the guides provided for navigators say that no matter in what direction the wind may be, a vessel can always find shelter in Scapa Flow by shifting berth. Practically the whole of this inland sea, measuring 50 square miles in area, is honeycombed around the edges with good harbors and roadsteads, many of them being along the cliffy banks of Pomona, or Mainland, the central and largest of the Orkney Islands. Burray, South Ronaldshay, Flotta, Fara, Hoy and Graemsey are the islands which form a ring to keep out heavy seas.

Terminal of a Long Blockade Line During the War

Though the name recalls to the British mind the base of the Home Fleet during their naval training season, to the American traveler during the World War it often suggests unhappy moments when much against his will he visited Scapa Flow because a Dutch, Scandinavian, Danish, or other neutral vessel on which he was traveling had been brought by a British cruiser into the harbor, and its passengers landed at one of the Orkney Island ports, for Scapa lay along the western terminal of the line of blockade. This blockade of ships and steel netting extended from the north of Scotland to Scandinavia to prevent travel to and from Germany.

To many, the Orkney Islands thus had an unpleasant introduction through no fault of their own, but if the anger of the passengers over delay was not too great they probably enjoyed the quaint charm of the inhabitants of this northern archipelago who boast that they are descendants of the old Scandinavians, who resent being referred to as Scotch, and who speak a dialect of English interspersed with peculiar old Norse words.

This characteristic of the island people is easily explainable even though it may hark back more than a thousand years, for at a very early date the sea-rovers from Scandinavia and Denmark made their way across the North Sea to Scotland and probably found in the firths and landlocked inlets reminders of the sheltering fiords which they had left at home.

One of the Oldest Cathedrals of Scotland

But those individuals who were fortunate enough to make their way to Kirkwall lying less than two miles across the island of Pomona from Scapa Flow, and the base from which the American mine-sweepers operated in taking up the great North Sea mine barrage laid during the World War, probably delighted in the old Cathedral of St. Magnus, founded in 1137 and now one of the three venerable Scottish cathedrals in nearly complete state of preservation.

The visitor to the Orkneys crossing over from Scotland usually has a vivid recollection of a swimming head and a weakness in the pit of his stomach, for the Pentland Firth which lies to the south of the islands enclosing Scapa Flow has the reputation of being rougher than the Atlantic, with "sometimes a current run-

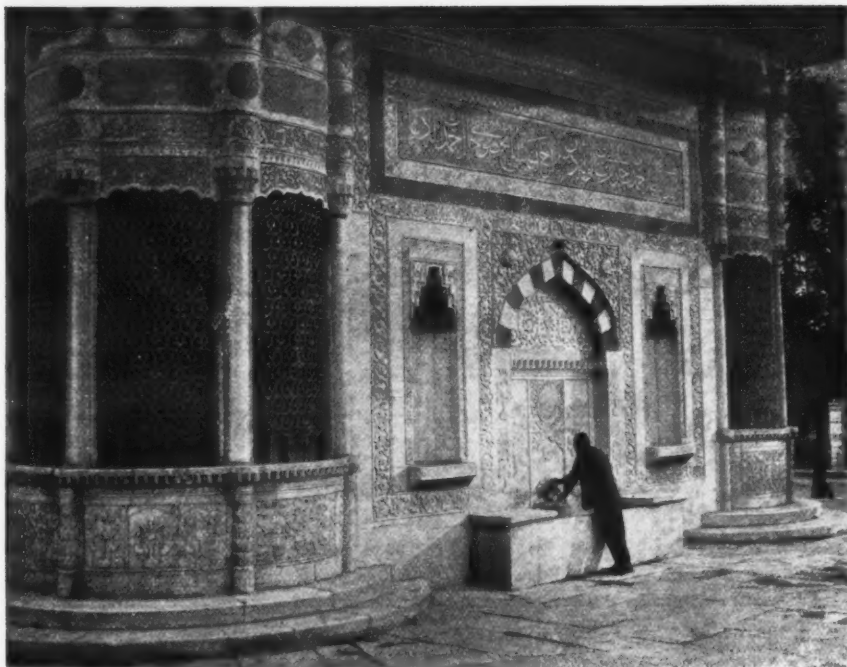
In 1739 the Persians under Nadir Shah sacked Delhi, massacred its inhabitants, and carried off the priceless Peacock Throne and the Koh-i-nor, perhaps the most famous of the great diamonds of the world. The Mogul empire lived only in name after this until in 1857, during the Indian Mutiny, the last of its rulers was removed and the British took full possession of Delhi.

Capital Shifted There From Calcutta

Because of its rich history as the fountain-head of power in India, Delhi—not Calcutta, which was then the capital—was chosen in 1877 as the site of the Durbar, or gathering of native kings and princes, at which Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India. Again in 1903 Delhi was chosen when a Durbar was held to Crown King Edward VII emperor, and once more in 1911 when George V assumed that title. On the latter occasion the new emperor announced that this ancient city of emperors would be restored as the capital of India and its 250,000,000 subjects.

The following year the viceroy and his administrative council moved into temporary quarters a few miles north of the city walls of Delhi. It is to the south of the present city, near the site of the more ancient Delhi, however, that the new permanent capital, planned on an imperial scale, is rapidly rising. The completed city will cover approximately 36,000 acres and will house more than 50,000 people connected with the administration of the imperial government.

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THE FOUNTAIN OF AHMED I; CONSTANTINOPLE

This fountain is the masterpiece of the many scattered over the city of Constantinople, but is typical of them all. That "unrivalled decoration of plain surfaces which forms the chief glory of Mohammedan art" here reaches its perfection. Each inscription has a hidden, as well as an apparent, meaning. On one line, for instance, there is a ingenious contrivance of characters arranged so that by adding a numeral value of successive letters one finds the year when the fountain was completed. (See Bulletin No. 1.)

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Limerick and Its Quips

LIMERICK, which is more generally known with a small "l," really began life with a capital "L." Though it is said to be a greater mark of fame to have a name made into a verb as "pasteurize" was made from Pasteur, Limerick, ancient city of Ireland, has been fortunate enough to have its name made a noun accepted in the King's best English to mean a certain five-line form of verse.

Limerick is located where the River Shannon flows near the head of the unbroken stretches of the green Vale of Tipperary. The portion of the river immediately above the city does not permit navigation. Fifteen miles of rushing torrents, of falls, and rapids, make the passage of any kind of boat impossible. Above these obstructions, however, the river flows from its origin, far to the north, through ten counties, widening into stretches of placid lake along which boats sail as far as the ford of historic Athlone, inspiration of many songs.

Nonsense Verse Made City Famous

That five-line stanza which most of us are guilty of attempting to compose at various times in our careers made the town as well as Edward Lear famous. And many notables, such as Rudyard Kipling, George du Maurier, Gelett Burgess and Carolyn Wells, have tried their hands at penning it. It is said that the composition of limericks originated as a form of amusement when a crowd of people gathered together for a pleasant evening in the Irish town. Each person was expected to compose a stanza in turn, and the following chorus was sung after each new rhyme in order to give the next contributor time to get his limerick ready:

"Oh, won't you come up, come up, come up,
Oh, won't you come up to Limerick?
Oh, won't you come, come all the way up,
Come all the way up to Limerick?"

The town, which occupies both sides of the river as well as King's Island, is about 130 miles from Dublin. Its bacon-curing industry, its creameries, its condensed milk factories, and its salmon fisheries keep busy its Rory O'Mores and its pretty little Irish colleens, the glances of whose beautiful blue eyes are like to prove as fatal as those of Kate Kearney. Limerick fishhooks are celebrated, and though the Limerick lace worked upon a fine quality of net derived its name from the city, most of it is made in other portions of the island at the present time.

Called Regia in the Days of Ptolemy

Limerick has had a past. It was the ancient Regia of Ptolemy; the Danes desired it for a long while before they finally occupied it in the ninth century; and in 1210 King John visited it and built forts upon its coveted soil. The dethroned James II of England made it his last stronghold. On the island in the river the ancient Limerick had its beginnings, and today its maze of crooked streets, and its old cathedral dating from 1170 are important points of interest.

Limerick also has her romance and poetry. All Irishmen may well be proud of Gerald Griffin, whose "Eileen Aroon" is a lyric of the tenderest and most musical

ning so fiercely that it can be seen as an oily, rolling river on the rougher surface of the sea."

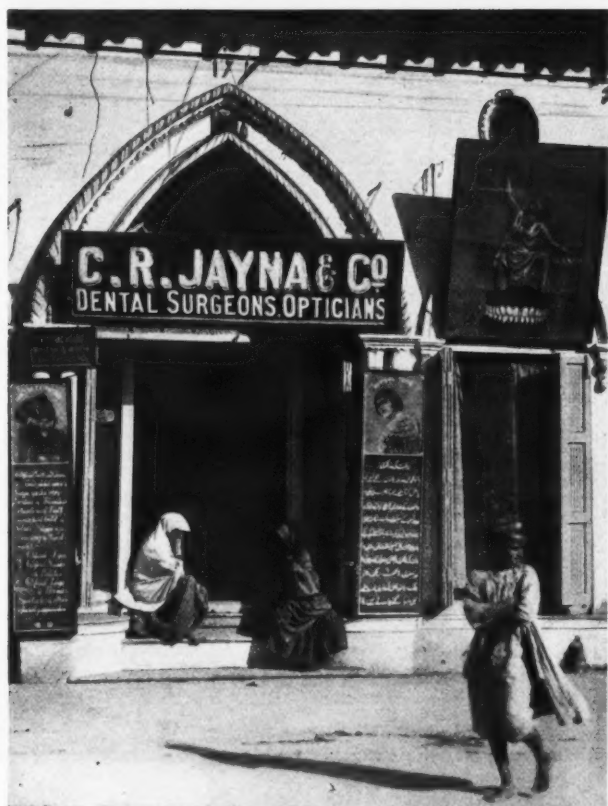
Where Picts Left Relics of Their Civilization

When the Vikings first began coming to the Orkneys they found a race of people about which almost nothing is known today. The Picts, however, left their brochs, or round towers, and queer burial mounds which form one of the chief sources of interest in the Islands. The Standing Stones of Stennes rise in dreary solitude and defy the years to solve the riddle of the men who put them there. The individual stones, twelve to fourteen feet high, are arranged in a semicircle about a cromlech or altar, which is supposed to have been dedicated to the moon.

Only 29 of the 66 islands in the group are inhabited and some of these by less than thirty people.

It has been surmised that it was probably in this portion of present-day Scotland that the story of the thistle, now the national flower, arose. It is told that one of the Danish invaders, while moving at night to surprise the Scotch, stepped with his bare feet upon a thistle and yelled with pain so loudly that he awakened the sleeping Scots, who hurriedly gathered up their arms and drove the enemy away.

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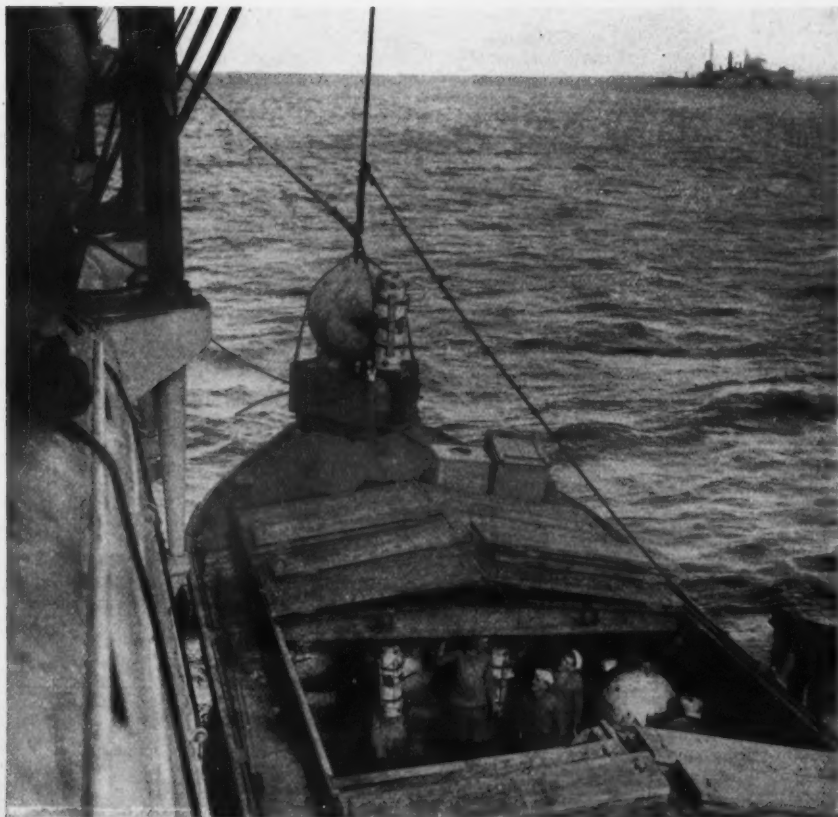
A DENTAL STUDIO ON DELHI'S CHANDNI CHAUK

The Delhi dentist is not restricted to humorous journals and fiction magazines for his waiting clients. He shows how the job is done and pictures a beneficent goddess in place of the imp who is prodding one's jaw with red-hot needle... (See Bulletin No. 3.)

quality. The bells of Limerick are famous for their beautiful tone. The story runs that they were made many years ago in Italy by a young bellmaker, who after years of toil perfected a set of bells the purity of whose tone satisfied his critical ear. They were hung in a nearby convent, but during a war the bells were carried away, no one knew where.

Misfortune fell upon the bellmaker and he wandered far from home always with the hope that he would find his beloved bells again. Hearing that they had been taken to Limerick, he set out for the city. Whilst sitting on the deck of the vessel as it made its way up the River Shannon, he heard the sweet, pure tones of his bells once again. He fixed his eyes on the distant cathedral whence the music came, but when they came to tell him that he might enter the city, he was dead.

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TAKING ABOARD A CARGO OF CANNED VOLCANOES

The flotilla of American warships which laid the North Sea mine barrage was appropriately called the "Suicide Squadron." (See Bulletin No. 4.)

